

REMARKS

Upon entry of the above amendment, 7-12 will be pending in the present application. Claim 7 is independent. Applicants have canceled claims 1-6 without prejudice. Applicants have amended claims to conform to U.S. Patent practice. Applicants have not added any new matter.

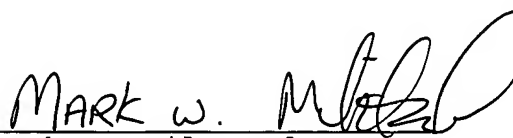
Conclusion

Applicants submit that the present claims define patentable subject matter and are in condition for allowance.

Should the Examiner believe that a conference would be helpful in advancing the prosecution of this application, he is invited to telephone Applicants' Attorney at the number below. If necessary, the Commissioner is hereby authorized in this, concurrent, and future replies, to charge payment or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 02-2334 for any additional

Attorney Docket No.: O-2002.713 US
fees required under 37 C.F.R. §§ 1.16 or 1.17; particularly,
extension of time fees.

Respectfully submitted,


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Enclosure: Abstract of the Disclosure